

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

12. (currently amended) A method ~~of eliminating interference by hemoglobin in the determination of~~ for determining alkaline phosphatase in a sample in which interference by hemoglobin is eliminated, comprising:

adding 4-nitrophenyl phosphate to said sample;

simultaneously determining a first optical measurement of said sample at 450 ± 10 nm and a second optical measurement at one or more secondary wavelengths selected from the group consisting of 480 ± 10 nm, 546 ± 10 nm, and 575 ± 10 nm; and

determining the difference between the first and second optical measurements.

13. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the first and second optical measurements comprise absorbance determinations.

14. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the first and second optical measurements comprise change in absorbance determinations.

15. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the secondary wavelength is 570 nm.

16. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein said sample comprises a plasma or serum sample.

17. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein said sample comprises a blood substitute.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the blood substitute comprises derivatized hemoglobin, polymerized hemoglobin, modified hemoglobin, or cross-linked hemoglobin.

19. (previously presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the blood substitute comprises human hemoglobin or bovine hemoglobin.

20. (previously presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the blood substitute comprises a recombinantly-produced hemoglobin.

21. (previously presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the blood substitute comprises diaspirin-crosslinked hemoglobin.

22. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein said sample has a hemoglobin concentration of up to about 3000 mg/dl.

23. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein said sample has a hemoglobin concentration of up to about 6500 mg/dl.

24. (presently amended) A method ~~[[of]]~~ for determining a level of alkaline phosphatase in a sample containing ~~[[4-nitropheny]]~~ 4-nitrophenyl phosphate in which interference by hemoglobin is eliminated, the method comprising:

simultaneously determining a first optical measurement at 450 ± 10 nm and a second optical measurement at a secondary wavelength selected from the group consisting of 480 ± 10 nm, 546 ± 10 nm, and 575 ± 10 nm; and

determining the difference between the first and second optical measurements.

25. (previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the first and second optical measurements comprise absorbance determinations.

26. (previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the first and second optical measurements comprise change in absorbance determinations.

27. (previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the secondary wavelength is 570 nm.

28. (presently amended) A method ~~[[of]]~~ for determining a level of alkaline phosphatase in a sample in which interference by hemoglobin is eliminated, comprising:

adding 4-nitrophenyl phosphate to said sample;

simultaneously measuring a first change in absorbance of said sample at 450 ± 10 nm and

a second change in absorbance of said sample at 480 ± 10 nm, 546 ± 10 nm, or 575 ± 10 nm; and

determining the difference between the first and second changes in absorbance.

29. (previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the measuring a second change in absorbance of said sample is conducted at 570 nm.

30. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the secondary wavelength is 480 ± 10 nm.

31. (previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the secondary wavelength is 480 ± 10 nm.

32. (previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the measuring a second change in absorbance of said sample is conducted at 480 ± 10 nm.